APPENDIX B.

Translation of the Proceedings of a meeting held at Chikmagalur on 13th August 1893, (presented by Mr. Srinivasa Rao, R. M., Chikmagalur, on 25th October 1893).

At the instance of Mr. Gundappa, Pleader, a meeting of the residents of Chikmagalur was held at Mr. Channarayadrug Raghavendrappa's house on the 13th August 1893 for the purpose of discussing the Draft Regulation for the prevention of Infant Marriages. Vedamurti Belur Raghunathachar was in the chair.

With the permission of the chairman, Mr. Gundappa explained to the meeting the draft Regulation and the Memo attached thereto.

In discussing the Bill, Mr. Tirunarana Perumal observed that the Draft Regulation was entirely in accordance with the Shastras and there seemed no objection to its being passed.

Resolutions:—

(1) With regard to the marriageable age of girls, all agree that only girls above eight years should be married.

(2) With regard to the marriage of boys, all agree that it is reasonable that boys under 14 should not be married.

(3) Regarding the marriage of men over 50 with girls under 14, the members are of opinion that, (*a*) if the man over 50 years of age be not an *Agnihotri*, it is unnecessary for him to marry, and (*b*) if he be an *Agnihotri*, he may marry again, but it is not shastraically necessary that he should marry and perform *Agnihotra*. As it is optional for men over 50 to marry or not, the restriction that they should not marry girls under 14 is a proper one.

All the members are of opinion that if the Regulation be passed, it will do much towards improving the condition of boys and girls.

Finally it was resolved that a copy of the Proceedings of the meeting should be forwarded to the Dewan and that the original thereof be handed over to him at the Dasara Assembly, which latter, Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Coffee Planter, undertook to do at the request of the members present.

Signed by Raghunathachar and 89 others.

NOTE.—	89	Brahmins.
	1	Non-Brahmin.

APPENDIX B.

To

M. R. Ry. Rajyadhurandhara, Sir K. SHESHADRI IYER, K. C. S. I.

The undersigned members of the Representative Assembly pray that the Draft Regulation for the prevention of Infant Marriages may be passed (with the modifications noted in the margin) as it is in accordance with the Dharmashastras and as it will tend to reduce the number of widows, is advantageous in the interests of students, will improve the physique of posterity and prove beneficial in other ways.

(1) To do away with imprisonment and impose fine only,
and (2) to provide for marriages being celebrated before the prescribed age in exceptional cases with the special previous sanction of Government.

They also pray that their deep sense of gratitude may be conveyed to His Highness the Maharaja for this enactment framed for the welfare of his subjects.

Signed by Srirangachar and 52 other members.

Note.—

Brahmins ..	32	Raddis ..	2
Vaisya ..	1	Sudra ..	1
Lingayets ..	6	Arsu ..	1
Muhammadan ..	1	Gaudas ..	8
		Signature illegible	1
		Total ..	53

APPENDIX B 2.

To

Sir K. SHESHADRI IYER, K. C. S. I.,

Dewan of Mysore.

The Memorial of the undersigned Representative Members humbly showeth:—

The undersigned pray that for reasons assigned below, the Draft Regulation for the prevention of Infant marriages may not be passed:—

(1). Owing to the spread of education among both sexes, parents are already exercising their wise discretion in the matter of their children's marriages, and people are interesting themselves in putting down infant marriages. As education advances further, the object of this Regulation will be in the natural course gained.

(2). Often in the interests of their children, it will be necessary for parents to marry them before the age prescribed in the bill and thereby to provide guardians to take care of them and their property.

(3). It is contrary to the principles of Government to take away from the parents, the people and the Heads of Matts, their rights in the matter of marriages, and to pass a penal law against the wishes of many people.

(4). To avoid false charges and other unnecessary trouble which the Regulation will give rise to, people will have to go out of the Province in view to celebrate marriages and in some cases to quit the Province altogether in fear of the Regulation.

(5). The Regulation will give wicked men the means of annoying and harassing quiet and good people and of making illegal exactions by lodging false complaints against them.

(6). Owing to the impossibility of determining the age of children, forgery, false evidence and other crimes will increase.

(7). It may be in the knowledge of Government that about 50 per cent of the complaints under the several penal laws now in force, are false. In successfully defending themselves against such cases, people have in many instances been reduced to utter poverty. Such being the case, the extension of penal law in a religious, social and domestic matter will tend to increase the poverty of the people.

(8). A person above 50 may, under the Regulation, lose the chance of marriage. Such a person, however rich or physically strong he may be, will have to leave the Province to marry, or he may have to abandon his faith and profess another.

(9). The people of the Province in general are against the introduction of the Regulation, and if it should be passed to meet the wishes of an insignificant minority of one in a lakh, the measure will greatly injure the feelings of loyal subjects. The results will be far more beneficial if the Government be pleased to extend education and give advice to the people and the Heads of Matts.

(10). By persons concerned in the marriage being sentenced to imprisonment, there will be none to manage their family affairs and look after their children and the consequences may be serious.

For these reasons the Bill may not be passed.

(Signed) C. MALLARI ROW
and 167 others.

Note.—Four of the signatures are illegible. Of the remainder there are—

81 Brahmins.	3 Jains.
19 Vaisyas.	[illegible]
2 Rajputs.	[illegible]
1 Mudaliar.	[illegible] Muhammadans.
28 Sivachars	Total 164.

The names of 4 signatures are not to be found in the list of Representative Members.